

Abraham on their 100th anniversary. And as they often say in the opening prayer of a Jewish mass, "Ma Tovv Ohalecha, Mishknotecha" or "How goodly are thy tents, thy dwelling places."

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH REC-
ONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I would like to spend a moment discussing the Economic Growth Package and the work that was done by Chairman THOMAS, other members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Republican Leadership and, of course, the White House. The subcommittee I chair was very interested in several aspects of the legislation and we conducted a hearing earlier this year to determine the extent of the impact of the dividend exclusion. The final product that has passed the House of Representatives will go a long way towards giving sectors of our economy the shot in the arm so necessary.

Numerous business groups have been part of the process and I want to acknowledge the testimony of the National Association of Home Builders before my subcommittee on the president's package and their contribution in supporting the overall effort. I am also aware and want to acknowledge the effort of the home builders in working with the administration in the same manner, particularly the Department of Treasury. I very much appreciate their expertise, economic research and analysis to ensure that no part of the legislation had any unintended consequences for low income housing. As a result, we are now able to pursue an economic stimulus plan that is good for all segments of the housing industry and all segments of the economy of these United States.

For the past two years, home building has been a leader in moving America's economy forward. Where many sectors of the economy have faltered, housing has remained a source of strength. Enactment of the economic stimulus package that is about to emerge from this Congress will ensure that housing continues to create the jobs and stimulate the economic growth that are needed to restore full prosperity for our nation's families and businesses.

CONDEMNING NEPAL'S FORCED
EXPULSION OF TIBETANS TO
CHINA

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on May 31st in Kathmandu the Government of Nepal turned over to senior diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China 18 Tibetan asylum seekers, including several minors, to be forcibly repatriated to China. In so doing, the Nepalese authorities flouted both inter-

national law and repeated strong representations by the United States and other concerned parties. This action also reversed long-standing Nepalese tolerance toward Tibetan asylum seekers, which in the past has allowed access to "persons of concern" by local officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

According to the Department of State, our Embassy in Kathmandu has informed the Nepalese Government at the highest levels about this specific incident. The status of Tibetan refugees in Nepal is a long-standing issue of concern to both the Executive Branch and Congress, and is often raised by American officials in Kathmandu. In addition, senior U.S. officials recently met with Nepalese and Chinese officials to raise our strong concerns about this issue.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has stated that the forcible return of the 18 Tibetans to China without a status determination constituted refoulement (forced return), which is in fundamental contravention of well-accepted international norms. Congress joins with the Executive Branch in condemning the behavior of the Government of Nepal and senior Chinese diplomats for their role in forcibly returning the asylum seekers to China. In the strongest terms, we urge Nepal to cease this inhumane conduct and return to its previous long-term practice of allowing Tibetans to seek protection in Nepal for onward resettlement.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL
MATTHEW SMITH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with equal amounts of profound pride and sympathy that I come to the floor this morning. I rise to honor a noble American . . . Lance Corporal Matthew R. Smith, a Marine Corps reservist from Anderson IN, who was killed Saturday, May 10, while serving his country in Kuwait. Lance Corporal Smith lost his life in a vehicle collision while running supply missions between Iraq and Kuwait. Lance Cpl. Smith was just 20 years old. He is survived by his father David, his mother Patricia, and by his brother Mason.

Lance Corporal Smith was assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group based in Peru, IN, an outfit he had served selflessly and courageously since enlisting in June of 2001.

Lance Corporal Smith's father David said that his son had an intense love for the Corps, and his fellow Marines. Mr. Smith told the Indianapolis Star, "How many people on this Earth die doing the job they know they were put here to do." His Aunt Vicki added, "He died doing what he believed in."

Lance Corporal Smith was a student of history—he was enrolled at Indiana University before he was called to active duty—an interest he vigorously embraced in his free time, in the classroom, and as a member of the Social Studies Academic Team. His school teachers recall a young man often expressing blunt, straight-forward and in-your-face viewpoints which they always found to be well researched

and sophisticated for his age. He was also an accomplished athlete; he spent time during high school playing rugby and was active in other outdoor activities.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Smith joins the 137 other proud and distinguished Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice—these wonderful men and women gave their lives in defense of freedom, a freedom we all too often take for granted.

May God bless the family of Lance Corporal Smith during this difficult time, and may they experience the prayers and thanks of a grateful nation. May they rest upon the promise of Jeremiah 31:13, "I will turn their mourning into gladness. I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow."

PAUL WOLFOWITZ SHOULD LEARN
FROM THE TURKISH MILITARY
ABOUT DEMOCRACY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, before we went on recess, I came to the floor of the House to express my deep dismay at the disregard for fundamental democratic principles shown by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. In an interview he gave on May 2 aimed for broadcast in Turkey, Secretary Wolfowitz repeatedly criticized the Turkish military for not having intervened in parliamentary deliberations with sufficient strength when the question of Turkish participation in the war in Iraq came up. I believed then and now that this appalling call on the Turkish military to violate fundamental democratic norms was particularly disturbing because there are few things more important to the stability of the world than the effort now going on in Turkey to show that people who are religious Muslims can preside over a fully democratic regime. While many of us would like to hope that this could be taken for granted, the recent history of the Middle East argues to the contrary and that is why supporting the Turkish government in its effort to implement democracy is so important.

Secretary Wolfowitz in his interview criticized the Turkish military for not speaking out to influence the Parliament, and when the interviewer pointed out to him that the Turkish military had in fact done that, he repeated his criticism by saying that they had not done it with enough strength. Telling a military in a democratic government that it should more strongly be expressing its views to elected officials demonstrates a misunderstanding of democracy in general, and a particular insensitivity to the implications of such statements in a country—Turkey—where there had been a history of military coup that many are trying to overcome.

Subsequent to my comments, I learned of a statement made by General Hilmi Ozkok, Chief of the Turkish General Staff, in which he responded to those who had been critical of the military. While his comments pre-date the interview given by Mr. Wolfowitz, this reads as if he were in part responding to the Deputy Secretary, and in fact he may have been doing so because it would not surprise me if Mr. Wolfowitz had made these criticisms directly to the Turkish military before going public with them.